reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) were as follows:

	(Rs. Crores)
30th June, 1992	16125
30th September, 1992	14937
31st October, 1992	14121
30th November, 1992	12586

Higher Growth Rate in Foreign Banks

3241. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Banks in India achieved a higher rate of growth during 1991-92 although the Indian Public Sector Banks transacted much higher volume of business;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have studied the reasons for the higher rate of growth of the foreign banks in the country;

(d) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(e) what action Government have taken to increase the growth rate of Indian Banks in comparison to foreign Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Quantity and Value of Smuggled Confiscated Items

3242. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity and value of smuggled items which were confiscated by Government during the last two years, item-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to control smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The quantity and value of contraband gold and silver and the value of watches, synthetic fabrics and electronic goods and the value of all contraband goods seized under the Customs Act, 1962 during the calender years 1991 and 1992 (upto 30th November) are given in the table below:—

	*1991		*1992 (upto 30th Nov.)	
	Quantity (in M.T.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in M.T.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
All contraband seized	—	740.00	—	450.95
Gold	5.02	190.02	2.72	118.20
Silver	197.08	138.20	140.35	107.37
Watches	—	6.37	—	1.78
Synthetic fabrics	—	2.77	—	1.79
Electronic goods	—	56.25	—	14.78

* Figures are provisional

(b) Anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. Anti-smuggling agencies have been equipped with vehicles, vessles, firearms, etc. Sophisticated equipment, such as X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used. A telecommunication net work has been provided, wherever considered necessary. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling.